

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**MEETING DATE:** 11 March 2014

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

**SUBJECT:** Investing in our Communities – Support to Community Councils

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to secure Cabinet support for proposed levels of funding made available to Community Councils in East Lothian for the financial year 2014/15.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the allocation of Community Council Administration Grants and Local Priorities Scheme Budgets for 2014/15, as detailed in Appendices 1 & 2.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 Community Council Funding**

Community Councils continue to play a vitally important role in East Lothian community life providing valuable support and effective influence within the communities they represent. The Council has a positive and effective working relationship across our network of 20 community councils. The Council's working partnership with Community Councils can be seen as both empowering and mutually beneficial and despite the very challenging financial circumstances posed by public sector spending constraints the Council is keen to maintain funding support at the maximum possible levels.

It is proposed that the longstanding financial assistance provided in respect of Administration Grants and the Local Priorities Scheme should continue. However, it has been necessary to reduce the pro rata amount of the Local Priorities Scheme to assist with meeting the savings to be found within Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services.

### 3.2 Administration Grants

Community Councils receive a basic grant allocation for administrative support services. This allocation comprises a fixed sum element, supplemented by a per capita sum reflecting the size of the electorate. Provision is also made to include a small administration grant to support the Association of East Lothian Community Councils. Precise details of the proposed allocations for each Community Council amounting to **£14,050** for financial year 2014/15 are contained within Appendix 1.

### 3.3 Local Priorities Scheme (LPS)

The success of our Local Priorities Scheme is now recognised nationally as leading practice and remains one of the most successful aspects of the Council's partnership with local communities. It provides the local communities with financial resource to support their own locally determined priorities. This funding is enhanced by grants awarded to some Community Councils through Landscape & Countryside's Civic Pride Fund, Economic Development, Leader and local fundraising, which support mutually beneficial projects.

As with the administration grant, allocations are made to individual Community Councils taking into account the size of the electorate in each area. Full details of the proposed allocations for financial year 2014/15 totalling **£122,000** are given in Appendix 2.

## 4 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 All of the proposals contained within this report reflect continued application of Council policy as determined by both the Council Plan and Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement. The proposals continue to demonstrate effective partnership working between the Council and East Lothian Community Councils.

## 5 **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The report is not applicable to the wellbeing of equalities groups and an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

## 6 **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – the detailed financial implications have been assessed in conjunction with relevant colleagues in the Finance Team. The specific funding allocations, made in recommendations 2.1, can be contained within the approved 2014/15 budget for Democratic Services.

- 6.2 Personnel – Significant support and advice is provided to Community Councils via the Democratic Services Officer, whose post is already part of the approved staffing establishment.
- 6.3 Other – additional support and advice is provided to many Community Councils by officers in service areas throughout the Council from within existing resources.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Access to further supporting information can be made available to elected members on request.

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<b>DATE</b>	27 February 2013



<b>2014/15 COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANT ALLOCATION</b>					
<b><u>Community Council</u></b>	<b><u>Fixed Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Variable Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Total Grant</u></b>	<b><u>Electorate Roll</u></b>	<b><u>Payable 1st June 2014</u></b>
	<b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>		<b><u>£</u></b>
Cockenzie & Port Seton	350	396	746	4,279	746
Dunbar	350	580	930	6,273	930
Dunpender	350	218	568	2,348	568
East Lammermuir	350	97	447	1,049	447
Garvald & Morham	350	35	385	383	385
Gifford	350	84	434	913	434
Gullane	350	379	729	4,105	729
Haddington	350	722	1,072	7,822	1,072
Humbie & Saltoun	350	83	433	898	433
Longniddry	350	216	566	2,344	566
Macmerry & Gladsmuir	350	115	465	1,241	465
Musselburgh	350	1,424	1,774	15,415	1,774
North Berwick	350	499	849	5,401	849
Ormiston	350	158	508	1,715	508
Pencaitland	350	154	504	1,669	504
Prestonpans	350	672	1,022	7,280	1,022
Tranent & Elphinstone	350	865	1,215	9,364	1,215
Wallyford	350	209	559	2,268	559
West Barns	350	49	399	532	399
Whitecraig	350	95	445	1,031	445
<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>	7,000	7,052	14,052	<b>76,330</b>	<b>14,050</b>
<b><u>CHECKS</u></b>		<b>7,050</b>	<b>14,050</b>		
Association of Community Councils			150		150

**COMMUNITY COUNCILS - LOCAL PRIORITIES SCHEME - INCLUDING XMAS LIGHTS ALLOCATION**

<b>BUDGET 2014/15</b>																				
													<b>PER ELECTOR</b>							
<b>BUDGET CODE</b>										<b>COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>	<b>ELECTORATE</b>	<b>FIXED SUM</b>	<b>PRO RATA</b>	<b>TOTAL SUM</b>	<b>FIXED SUM</b>	<b>PRO RATA</b>	<b>TOTAL SUM</b>			
												£	£	£	£	£	£			
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5137	COCKENZIE & PORT SETON	4,279	1,500	5,400	6,900	0.35	1.26	1.61
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5138	DUNBAR	6,273	1,750	7,910	9,660	0.28	1.26	1.54
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5139	DUNPENDER	2,348	1,000	2,960	3,960	0.43	1.26	1.69
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5140	EAST LAMMERMUIR	1,049	1,000	1,320	2,320	0.95	1.26	2.21
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5141	GARVALD & MORHAM	383	500	480	980	1.31	1.25	2.56
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5142	GIFFORD	913	750	1,150	1,900	0.82	1.26	2.08
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5143	GULLANE	4,105	1,500	5,180	6,680	0.37	1.26	1.63
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5144	HADDINGTON	7,822	2,000	9,870	11,870	0.26	1.26	1.52
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5145	HUMBIE & SALTOUN	898	750	1,130	1,880	0.84	1.26	2.09
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5146	LONGNIDDRY	2,344	1,000	2,960	3,960	0.43	1.26	1.69
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5147	MACMERRY & GLADSMUIR	1,241	1,000	1,560	2,560	0.81	1.26	2.06
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5148	MUSSELBURGH	15,415	2,500	19,440	21,940	0.16	1.26	1.42
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5149	NORTH BERWICK	5,401	1,500	6,810	8,310	0.28	1.26	1.54
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5150	ORMISTON	1,715	1,000	2,160	3,160	0.58	1.26	1.84
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5151	PENCAITLAND	1,669	1,000	2,100	3,100	0.60	1.26	1.86
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5152	PRESTONPANS	7,280	2,000	9,180	11,180	0.27	1.26	1.54
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5153	TRANENT & ELPHINSTONE	9,364	2,250	11,810	14,060	0.24	1.26	1.50
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5154	WALLYFORD	2,268	1,000	2,860	3,860	0.44	1.26	1.70
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5155	WEST BARNES	532	750	670	1,420	1.41	1.26	2.67
1	-	05	-	150	-	2	-	25	-	245	-	5156	WHITECRAIG	1,031	1,000	1,300	2,300	0.97	1.26	2.23
														<b>76,330</b>	<b>25,750</b>	<b>96,250</b>	<b>122,000</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>1.60</b>
															<b>25,750</b>	<b>96,250</b>	<b>122,000</b>			